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Enclosure 1

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POLAND: POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REVIEW
for December 15 - 31, 1950

Compiled exclusively from information published in the Polish Communist press.

A. POLITICAL LIFE

EAST-GERMAN PRESIDENT PIECK IN WARSAW. On December 18 President Wilhelm Pieck of East Germany arrived in Warsaw accompanied by Vice-Premier Heinrich Rau, Vice-Premier Hans Hoch, Foreign Minister Georg Detinger, Assistant Foreign Minister Anton Ackerman, chairman of the National Front Dr Erich Correns, chairman of the Youth League Erich Honnecker, Chief of the President's Chancery Otto Winter, the President's secretary Walter Bartel, president of the Polish-German Association for Friendship Karl Wloch, and Chief of Protocol Ferdinand Thun. The Germans spent two days in Warsaw, during which they were met by every prominent politician in accordance with a comprehensive time-table. It was emphasised in all addresses that the state visit had come about during a time when the western Powers were rearming West Germany against Poland. President Pieck emphacised in his address that Poland was now second only to the Soviet Union in Germany's foreign trade, and that East Germany, on the other hand, had become second only to the Soviet Union in Poland's foreign trade. He emphacised that the Polish-German frontier was a peace-frontier and therefore inviolable. He recalled that more and more German experts were coming to Poland "in order to gain experiences for work in their own country" and said that their numbers will increase.

[redacted] comment. Wilhelm Pieck spent recently a few

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weeks in Moscow "in order to take a medical check-up by Russian doctors because of his declining health". The Germans had in Warsaw too little time and their program was too overloaded to permit any serious discussions (provided no one of them stayed back in Warsaw, concerning which there is no information). It seems, therefore, that the visit was principally a courtesy call intended to accustom the Poles and the Germans to the somewhat unusual atmosphere of friendship and to make an impression on the West in the face of the discussions concerning the rearmament of West Germany.

Pieck's statement on the foreign trade with Poland is worthy of interest. In this writer's opinion it amounts to the following: the Soviet Union takes the first place in East Germany's foreign trade because large quantities of goods go to the Soviet Union, and Poland takes the second place in West Germany's foreign trade because numerous Polish commodities, coal in the first place, go to East Germany (gratuituously). But it is still more interesting that East Germany has taken the second place in Poland's foreign trade in succession to Czechoslovakia. These changes happened after the adherence of East Germany to the COMECON, and it is in fact incorrect to speak of "foreign trade" between its members. The COMECON is now directing all foreign trade of its area, in which questions of payment play no importance whatever.

Finally, Pieck's statement confirmed the reports of an earlier date according to which a number of former Polish Germans have been permitted to return to Poland as experts. Statements put earlier into the circulation to the effect that Soviet Russia intends to solve the Polish-German problem by letting the Germans to return to their former parts now formally under the sovereignity of Poland, seem therefore now more trustworthy than before.

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COMMUNIST DOCKERS' INTERNATIONAL. According to statements made during the meeting at Warsaw, the Standing Committee of the International Federation of Communist Dockers, which counted in July 1949 fifteen unions as its members, has now increased this number to 24. The meeting was attended by delegates from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Netherlands, East Germany, Poland, Roumania, USA, Italy, Soviet Russia and Australia. The following new members were admitted during the convention: Australia, New Zeeland, Brazil, Cuba and Colombia. The French delegate Andre Fressina, who presided the meetings and is the secretary-general of the International Federation, and the Italian delegate Marino di Stefano, who is a vice-president of the Federation, were the chief speakers at the meetings. A few delegates mentioned in the press were Vavilkin, chairman of the maritime transport workers union, for the Soviet Union; Vuorinen for Finland; Novakov for Bulgaria; Healy for Australia; Koman Descalu for Roumania; Herbert Littke for East Germany; Peter Anderson for Denmark; George Pontikos for Greece; and Tshiu-King for China.

[redacted] comment. The meetings were devoted almost exclusively to questions connected with the "Peace Drive", i.e. to sabotage to be directed against the arms transports for Western Europe. It is significant that the delegates of France and Italy - two nations holding the principal strategic positions - played the leading parts. 50X1-HUM

HUNGARIAN MILITARY DELEGATION AT WARSAW. General Pal Ila and Col. Kovacs arrived in Warsaw to represent the Hungarian army in connection with the centenary celebrations of General Bem, the Polish-Hungarian national hero.

POLAND "RECALLS" ITS CONSULAR OFFICERS FROM WEST GERMANY. On December 13 the Assistant Foreign Minister Skrzeszewski presented to the British Ambassador a note protesting against "the violation of the diplomatic immunity of Polish consular

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officers in West Germany" and announcing the decision of Poland to recall these officers, as they have been prevented to carry out their official duties. 50X1-HUM

[redacted] comment. This step was taken after the announcement of the Allied Control Commission that it intended to regard Polish consular officers in the future as private citizens because of their refusal to be accredited to the Allied Control Commission. This was in November, whereafter the British military authorities evicted the Poles from their residence and refused to accord to them the privilege of immunity.

GOVERNMENT AGENCY FOR PUBLIC COMPLAINTS. The Communist Party (PZPR) has directed all its agencies to check very carefully that all complaints coming from the public receive due attention. Complaints presented by the public, says the decision, "contain more often than not feelings of concern about the general welfare, socialized property, better working methods in the administration, party organization and business undertakings". Party organs have omitted to use this "means of self-criticism" and have failed to secure that such complaints receive proper attention by government and business agencies. There are cases in which the party organs have tried to suppress the complaints and to relieve the accused of their proper responsibility. Party executives should therefore devote in the future at least one meeting in each quarter year to a report showing which complaints have come in and what was their result. Every attempt to suppress criticism is liable to be prosecuted and punished.

Some time afterwards the State Council and Government adopted a similar decision. Village, city, district and provincial People's Councils are to announce publicly on what days their presidents, vice-presidents and section chiefs are available for the population. Central administrative agencies (departments) are to be open for this purpose each Monday. On those days "the population is entitled to

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